



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary

Upcoming Regulations (January 2012):

Commercial Horseshoe Crabs, Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass

Create consistency between regulations for the black sea bass, summer flounder, and horseshoe crab commercial fisheries and allow some flexibility in coastal commercial permitting. Currently, there are inconsistencies in the regulations between the fisheries with regards to ownership in federally permitted vessels, changing of declared vessels, the number of commercial permits allowed on a federally permitted vessel, and quota overage management. The regulation proposal will also include any recreational season or size changes required by ASMFC. Changes to the summer flounder commercial size limit for the hook and line fishery are also being explored.

Clams

Clarify language for which portions of the regulations apply to *Mya* and *Tagelus*; adopt National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) requirements for tagging and containerizing.

Gear

Creates a chapter of regulation that specifically lists recreational fishing gear and certain commercial fishing gear and restrictions pertaining to the gears' uses.

Pilot Program

Creates a pilot program permit structure for future fisheries pilot programs. The Department of Natural Resources proposes to conduct certain voluntary commercial fishing pilot projects for practical demonstration and evaluation of alternative fisheries management and harvest methods to increase efficiency and value.

Restitution

Creates a restitution system for individuals convicted of certain fishing violations. Restitution would be per fish and based on dockside values for tidal fish and stocking costs for nontidal fish with additional monetary increases for values such as historical, cultural, and biological importance. This system is being created in consultation with SFAC/TFAC Penalty Workgroup.

Fishery Management Plans

Amendments for Clam and Crabs. Clams will include requirements for NSSP compliance. Crabs will include incorporation of recently approved reference points as recommended by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee.

General — Housekeeping

Adds recreational license reciprocity agreement language for recreational fishing registrations. The recreational license reciprocity agreement was altered in light of the changes local jurisdictions made regarding the Federal Saltwater Angler Registry. Maryland and Virginia have reciprocal licenses under this agreement but require the holders of such licenses to register in their State.

Spiny Dogfish

Members of the commercial spiny dogfish fishery are interested in discussing the development of a limited entry fishery.

Inland Fisheries 2013 Changes

A wording change is needed to better describe the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area on Bear Creek in Garrett County. The current wording refers to “watershed” and does not accurately describe the area under Put-and-Take management. The plan is to change the wording from “watershed” to “from the corner of Fish Hatchery Road and Rabbit Hollow Road downstream to the confluence with the Youghiogeny River at Friendsville. The North Jennings Run Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area is adjacent to the Jennings Run Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area in Allegany County, but each has a different closure schedule. Inland wants to place both areas under a 2,3 closure to make enforcement easier for the Natural Resources Police. (Jennings Run is currently a 2,3, but North Jennings is a 1,3). Western Region II staff wants to introduce two new Youth Trout Fishing Areas in the Washington-Frederick County area.